



PERSHING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Russell D. Fecht, Superintendent of Schools
Jonathan Reynolds, Principal, Pershing County High School
Shea B. Murphy, Principal, Pershing County Middle School
Kelly Lusardi, Principal, Lovelock/Imlay Elementary Schools

Reopening Our Schools Guiding Principles

- Ensure the safety and well-being of all students and employees
- Promote equity and accessibility to learning for all students
- Provide instructional delivery systems to meet the needs of all students
- Foster positive relationships and interactions
- Financial Feasibility
- Community Impact

Academic Goals

- Basic and social emotional needs of students and staff must be met in order to optimize student learning.
- All students must have equitable access to effective instruction and standards-based grade level learning.
- Learning loss must be evaluated and addressed.
- Standards based grade level instruction must occur with in-school instruction and distance learning models.
- Professional Learning Communities and other learning opportunities are critical to build capacity within and among educators and to continuously improve.

Key Considerations

- American Association of Pediatrics Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-Entry
- Nevada Current Phase 2 Requirements
- Assumptions and Committee Considerations
- Nevada Department of Education Nevada's Path Forward Guidance Memorandum 20-05

Guidance for School Re-Entry

- American Academy of Pediatrics advocates for having all students physically present in school.
- Physical distancing practice of three to six feet for students and six feet apart for adults with face coverings for all.
- Cleaning and disinfecting per established protocols for Covid-19.
- Cohort classes and special considerations given for passing, recess, transportation, and nutrition breaks.
- Families conduct symptom screening at home and children presenting any symptoms should be kept at home with notifications to schools.

Nevada Current Phase 2 Requirements

- Six feet social distancing
- Avoid social events or public gatherings over 50 and 50% capacity of facilities
- Face coverings are required for students and staff (not required for students under the age of 10)

Reopening Schools—Assumptions

- No single decision will satisfy all students, families, and staff.
- Models have been developed and recommendations have been formed, without the benefit of clear information regarding our 2020-2021 budget.
- The District will be operating in an environment of significantly reduced State revenues.
- There will be a cost in dollars, time, supplies and human resources to reduce the risk of transmission.
- Certain non-core functions of the District may be temporarily curtailed, postponed or eliminated.
- Costs to provide services will be atypical and may potentially be higher than prior years.
- There will still be active cases of COVID-19 in Pershing County at the time of school opening and throughout the 2020-21 school year.
- There will be families and staff who will want an alternative to in person instruction for part, or the entirety, of the pandemic.
- There will be families and staff who want a return to “normal”.
- There may be an outbreak of COVID-19 in Pershing County that could require a temporary school closure for one or more schools.
- There may be multiple “waves” of virus outbreak and changing guidance from state or county health officials which will necessitate flexibility.
- Schools will need to quickly pivot between delivery models as conditions change.

Governor Directive 022

----- requires districts to develop plans which contemplate 2020-2021 school year instruction offered through:

1. In-Person instruction following social distancing protocols;
2. Distance Education under an approved Path Forward Program of Distance Education; or
3. A combination of distance education and in-person instruction (hybrid learning).

Full Time In-Person Learning Model

- Attend school Monday through Thursday
- Requires adherence to State Phase 2 reopening requirements:
 - Social Distancing
 - Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Restrictions to close contact activities
 - Enhanced cleaning & hygiene protocols
 - Screening protocols in place

*This is the PCSD preferred model, however, it is physically impossible to implement in all of our schools given our current Phase 2 restrictions. The hybrid model that we have constructed will allow for all students to return for full time in person learning when restrictions are eased.

Full Time Distance Learning

- District must have an option for families to receive high quality standards-based instruction without coming into schools. The PCSD approved platform of Edgenuity/Compass meets this requirement and may have to be supplemented with paper packets when necessary.

This option is available to all families under several scenarios:

- Families choose to request full-time distance learning.
- A student, or group of students, being excluded from school due to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 exposure.
- A school is temporarily shut down due to an outbreak.
- The school district is temporarily shut down due to an outbreak.

Hybrid Learning Model

A Hybrid Learning Model is one that combines elements of both in person and distance learning. In Pershing County, we are referring to a learning model in which students are receiving in person learning for two days a week and distance learning instruction for two days a week.

- While in school, all provisions of In-Person learning (e.g. social distancing, use of PPE, etc.) remain the same.
- While on distance, all provisions of Distance Learning (e.g. certified teachers, access to food, etc.) remain the same.

*If in person learning is not available to all because of space and staffing limitations, hybrid learning must be available to families.

***Even when hybrid learning is employed, families with known medical, social, and academic vulnerabilities may receive full-time in-person learning. This may include but not necessarily limited to:

- Students being served in self-contained special education programs.
- Students living in transition or in foster care.
- Students new to the country with English Learner requirements.

Addressing the Special Considerations

Safety and Health

No single health & safety measure in isolation will effectively mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Therefore, a multi-layered approach, including the following, will be used:

- Self-screening and remaining home if any illness symptoms are present
- Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Enhanced cleaning & hygiene protocols, frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces
- Social Distancing
- Restrictions to close contact activities
- Staff may be asked to engage in duties not typically associated with their professional positions.

Use of Face Coverings

- Consistent with the Governor's Directive 024, the use of face coverings for staff members, visitors and students age 10 and above, while in PCSD buildings and on properties, is required. There are medical exemptions and exceptions for children 9 years of age and younger to this requirement.
- Given these exceptions, administration is recommending the use of face coverings for students 9 years of age and younger.
- Should the Directive's restrictions be lifted, administration would strongly recommend the use of face coverings among all students and staff recognizing that at times the use of face coverings may not be practical.
- The District will provide one reusable face covering for every child and staff member.
- Students and staff may bring their own face coverings in lieu of a district supplied mask.

Nutrition Services

- Breakfast and Lunch will be available to all students.
- Selected area eligible food distribution sites will continue to service students for distance education days.
- Aspects of this service model are contingent on extension of USDA waivers beyond August 31.

Transportation

- Appropriate signage and seat markings will be placed on each bus.
- Seating charts will be created to facilitate coordinated loading/unloading.
- Air flow throughout the bus will be increased by opening selected windows.
- Driver will disinfect handrails, seat tops, and entrance doors between runs.
- Daily disinfecting of buses will be performed by PCSD Transportation.
- Currently, all occupants on the bus are **required** to wear face coverings.

Information Technology

- Not all students have devices or internet coverage available.

Human Resources

- All employees will return to work under the guidance of applicable negotiated agreements, policies, laws and procedures.
- All employees must continue to monitor their health and stay home when sick.

Action Items

- Proposed Action
- Important facts and considerations
- Pros and Cons
- Recommended Action

Calendar

No formal calendar date changes are being sought at this time. We do request flexible use of all Professional Development Days in case we run into a significant need for training.

Use of Face Coverings

Consistent with the Governor's Directive 024, the use of face coverings for staff members, visitors and students age 10 and above, while on PCSD buildings and properties, is required. There are medical exceptions and exceptions for children 9 years of age and younger to this requirement. Given these exceptions, administration is recommending the use of face coverings for students 9 years of age and younger.

Should the Directive's restrictions be lifted, administration would strongly recommend the use of face coverings among all students and staff recognizing that at times use of face coverings may not be practical.

Use of Face Coverings Considerations

- The Governor issued Directive 024, which includes mandates regarding the use of face coverings, on June 24, 2020.
- According to the CDC, the use of face coverings mitigates the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus and other diseases.
- The District will provide one reusable face covering for every child and staff member.
- Students and staff can bring their own face coverings.

Face Coverings Pros & Cons

- The use of face coverings provides protection for one's self from exposure to the COVID-19 virus (+).
- The use of face coverings protects others from exposure to the COVID-19 virus (+).
- Learning is an interactive process and facial cues are critical, especially for younger children, which could be impacted by face coverings (-).
- Frequent touching of one's face covering could create its own health risk or propel exposure to the COVID-19 virus (-).

Face Covering Recommended Motion

That the Board of Trustees approves, consistent with the Governor's Directive 024, including noted exceptions, the required use of face covering for staff members, visitors, and students age 10 and above while on PCSD buildings and properties. Additionally, administration is recommending the use of face coverings for student 9 years of age and younger.

Should the Directive's restrictions be lifted, administration would strongly recommend the use of face coverings among all students and staff when practical.

Transportation

To support Phase 2 student learning models, student transportation should be provided by school buses at equal to or greater than 50% capacity contingent on receiving State approval for capacity over 50%. Additionally, all occupants on the bus would be **required** to wear face coverings.

Transportation Considerations

50% (42 students riding) – Limited Social Distancing - one student to a seat with some two to a seat

- Per current state protocols face coverings required to be worn when Social Distancing is not possible

55 of 84 seats – 65%, 65% or greater (55+) – Pre-COVID Transport – no Social Distancing – two to three students per seat

- Student count would be higher than the Governor's current maximum gathering capacity of 50
- Per current state protocols face coverings required to be worn when Social Distancing is not possible

Transportation Pros & Cons

- Transportation for all federal and state mandated programs stays intact (+).
- Relaxed social distancing requirements enables transportation for all students zoned for transportation, routes or ridership (+).
- The use of face coverings on the bus, given limitations to social distancing, will help mitigate spreads of COVID-19(+).

Transportation Recommended Motion

That the Board of Trustees approve student transportation being provided by school buses at equal to or greater than 50% capacity for the Phase 2 Learning Models contingent on receiving State approval for capacity over 50%. Additionally, all occupants on the bus would be required to wear face coverings

Re-Opening Learning Model

An In-Person Learning Model in which enrolled students attend school Monday through Thursday receiving all instruction within the school; and the temporary use of Distance Learning in the event a student or group of students is excluded, or if a school or the district is temporarily shut down due to an outbreak.

Learning Model Considerations

Based on current assumptions and analysis of space and available staffing, In-Person Learning at all levels is possible.

- The In-Person Learning Model requires:
 - Adherence to State Phase 2 reopening requirements with American Pediatrics Recommendations
 - Social Distancing
 - Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Restrictions to close contact activities
 - Enhanced cleaning & hygiene protocols
 - Screening protocols

Learning Model Pros & Cons

- The In-Person Learning Model is the least disruptive to families considering our working family's needs (+).
- The In-Person Learning Model is the least disruptive to social emotional and academic learning (+).
- Phase 2 requirements will result in students working independently within the school setting for substantial periods of time and potentially being supervised by non-certified staff (+-).
- In the event of an exclusion or shutdown, quality standards-based distance learning is available (+).

Recommended Action

That for the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation for an In-Person Learning Model for all levels in which enrolled students attend school Monday through Thursday receiving all instruction within the school; and the temporary use of Distance Learning in the event a student or group of students is excluded, or if a school or the district is temporarily shut down due to an outbreak.

